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General Assembly
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 119 (a), (b) and (d) and 166

Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments; human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms; comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued by an official source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar on 23 November 2001, in which it expressed its deep concern about the fate of the Arab and other nationalities in Afghanistan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 199 (a), (b) and (d) and 166, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Qatar expresses concern for the fate of Arabs and persons of other nationalities in Afghanistan

The State of Qatar has expressed its deep concern at the possibility that many Arabs and persons of other nationalities in Afghanistan, and especially in the city of Kunduz, may have been massacred on the basis of their race or nationality, which would be incompatible with human values and with the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights.

The official spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that, in telephone calls to Mr. Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State of the United States of America, and Mr. Amre Moussa, Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassem Bin Jabr Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs, had transmitted Qatar's concern and anxiety concerning the whereabouts and safety of these persons, who must be accorded the rights guaranteed to them under the international conventions on prisoners of war.

The official spokesman appealed to the fraternal parties in Afghanistan to exercise self-restraint, to avoid bloodshed and to form a national government representing all groups and classes of the Afghan people.